



Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form



Executive Headteacher and CEO of NEMAT: Rob James

29 January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers of Students in Year 11

Thank you for your continued support in these challenging times. The messages many of you have sent to us really make a difference and boost our morale. It is interesting to see so many students now asking, 'when can I come back to school?'

We know the Prime Minister's recent announcement, stating that schools will not open until at least Monday 8 March, is not what we hoped for. We want to see the students back in school, as we realise learning from home can never replicate being in school with staff and friends.

During the next few weeks, it will be important for all of us to work together to support not only the students' education but their emotional, social and physical wellbeing. The regular welfare checks, attendance at lessons, assemblies and tutor times, and participation in the wellbeing tasks, challenges and competitions in the weekly Notley@Home, will all contribute to a sense of 'normality'.

We know the uncertainty about the GCSE and vocational examinations in the summer is causing concern. The Government is conducting a consultation to gather views on the proposals for how the grades will be awarded, which finishes this week. We have the same questions as you. What will the assessment involve? When will the grades need to be submitted? What will be examined? Hopefully, we will know the answers to all of these questions in a few weeks.

What we do know is that the students still need to stay focussed and motivated to achieve good grades. Teachers will need to gather evidence from various pieces of work to support the estimation of a grade as students will not be taking external examinations. We do not yet know what evidence is required until the Government consultation has concluded. We will update you about what will happen in school as soon as we know more.

Many of you have asked if the results from the mock examinations will be used. The answer is that they may be part of the overall picture, but the most important evidence is the work students produce in the coming months. We are aware that some students are putting themselves under tremendous pressure and we are concerned that this is having a negative impact on them. The best thing that they can do is to continue attending and engaging in all lessons and complete the work set, but do not assume that every piece of work will count towards the final grade. We improve by making mistakes, students need to continue to take risks in their learning as this is how they will make progress. Once we have had the guidance from the Government, we will ensure that the evidence used will give them the best chances of achieving good grades. So, they still have time to make a difference to their final grades!

We will put in place a range of extra support for revision, catch-up classes, advice on careers or college applications and various assessments. This will allow students to show us what they know and for us to submit accurate grades that reflect their ability.

"Working together, achieving together"

Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form, Notley Road, Braintree, Essex CM7 1WY

☎ 01376 556300 ☎ 01376 550991 ✉ enquiries@notleyhigh.com 🌐 www.notleyhigh.com

Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form is an academy within the North Essex Multi-Academy Trust and a company limited by guarantee registered in England & Wales (company number 7687474). Registered office as above.





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We are always trying to improve the remote lessons and the engagement of students. Please encourage your child to be brave and use their microphone when asked and not just communicate via chat. Hopefully this will make the lessons more productive. We are pleased with the high levels of lesson attendance but there are still some students who could be better. If your child has failed to attend their online lessons, you will be contacted. This is necessary as it is part of our risk assessment process to safeguard students. If your child is unwell then please contact the school in the usual way.

Punctuality is also important. Unfortunately, some students are attending but joining late. This causes significant disruption to the lessons and interrupts the learning. Please talk to your child and ensure they log in at the start of the lesson.

Safeguarding continues to be a high priority. As a school we are required to retain our statutory duties to safeguard students and we have adapted our processes. As you are aware, we endeavour to remain in contact with all students through lessons and tutor times. As detailed in the Child Protection Policy, if we are unable to make contact then parents/carers will be contacted by email or telephone. Please ensure you respond as quickly as possible. You can view the policy through the school website.

Finally, as announced this week, all schools will be closed over the February half-term, so there will be no provision to supervise key workers' children

If you have any issues with remote lessons, please contact the class teacher. If you are having technical problems accessing remote learning, please email ITsupport@notleyhigh.com. For any other urgent issues, please send your concerns to enquiries@notleyhigh.com. We will contact you as soon as possible.

Once again thank you for your ongoing support.

Take care and stay safe.

Yours faithfully

Mr R James
CEO/Executive Headteacher

Dr C Cusick
Head of School

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